

## REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

<b>Title of Publication:</b>	Gordius
<b>Other Known Title:</b>	Not Stated
<b>Format:</b>	Book
<b>Director/Author:</b>	John Evans
<b>Producer/Publisher:</b>	Arrow Books Limited
<b>Country of Origin:</b>	UK
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Applicant:</b>	Secretary for Internal Affairs
<b>Distributor:</b>	Random House New Zealand Ltd
<b>Classification:</b>	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.
<b>Descriptive Note:</b>	Not Applicable.
<b>Display Conditions:</b>	That when the publication is on public display, the classification given to the publication must be shown by way of a label issued in accordance with a direction under section 36A(2);  and  That the label must be affixed to the front cover of the publication.
<b>Date of entry in Register:</b>	28 July 2006
<b>Date of direction to issue a label:</b>	27 July 2006
<b>OFLC No:</b>	601047
<b>Excisions:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Reasons for excisions:</b>	Not Applicable

**Summary of reasons  
for classification:**

The book entitled *Gordius* is classified as:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

The publication is a paperback book belonging to the fantasy/horror genre. It was submitted to the Classification Office by the Department of Internal Affairs after a complaint from a member of the public.

Sadistic violence is described in a manner which often provides the reader with a sense of vicarious participation. The extent and degree of these descriptions is likely to inure younger readers to the concept of extreme cruelty. The publication describes sexual violence, childhood abuse, unusual sexual practices, and relationships between adults and young people. A high level of maturity is necessary to avoid the reader being unduly disturbed. A restriction to adults is also required to limit the detrimental impact this type of material is likely to have on the development of positive sexual attitudes and sound relationships among young people.

This restriction interferes with the right to freedom of expression as set out in s14 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. This limitation is demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society, given the likely injury to the public good should it be available to children and young people.